

# **Drug Policy Advisory Council**

## **Meeting Minutes – August 10, 2006**

**Voting Council Members Present:** Dale Woolery for Marvin Van Haaften, Stewart Barnes, Paul Stageberg, Art Schut, Ken Carter, Pam Dettmann, Jeanette Bucklew, Charlotte Burt.

**Non-voting Members Present:** Al Overbaugh, Lt. Sonja Brekke for LTC Tim Glynn.

**Guests:** Matt Whitaker, U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Iowa; Richard Rothrock, Assistant U.S. Attorney.

**Staff Present:** Dennis Wiggins and Becky Swift.

### **Welcome and Introductions:**

The meeting was called to order by Associate Director, Dale Woolery at 1:00 p.m. Council member introduced themselves. Ken Carter made a motion to approve the minutes of May 11, 2006 as written, Pam Dettmann seconded and Council members voted unanimously in favor.

Becky Swift reminded the Council members that the Code of Iowa states that if voting members miss three consecutive meetings they will be deemed to have submitted a resignation. She stated under some circumstances excused absences will be allowed. Council members can contact Becky regarding their attendance. Voting members are allowed to send a designee to serve in their absence.

DPAC meeting dates for 2007 will be announced in the near future.

Matt Whitaker presented an award to Becky Swift for her dedicated guidance and assistance to the United States Attorney's Office on their Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative.

### **National Drug Trafficking**

Ken Carter reported that he attended the National Alliance of State Drug Enforcement Agencies meeting in Houston, Texas. Representatives from 38 out of the 50 states attended. Border issues were the hot topic of the meeting. A very extensive power point presentation was shown on what is happening at the Texas - Mexico the border. There are concerns about a new seaport that is being enhanced on the southwest side of Mexico. The primary purpose for the seaport is to receive goods from China, which supports large production and exportation of pseudoephedrine.

The Department of Narcotics Enforcement (DNE) has four field supervisors that cover the state of Iowa. The Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) also has four zones but they do not overlap with DNE. In calendar year 2005, DNE seized 148 pounds of meth and over 300 pounds of cocaine. Meth lab counts as of July

31, 2006, are 245 as opposed to 667 on the same date in 2005 roughly showing a 70-72% decrease.

During the meth epidemic, cocaine and marijuana use and trafficking still existed even though most of the day to day dealings were with meth. Slides were shown of different drug cartels in Mexico and their routes to the United States. The Texas Department of Public Safety is concerned that a new rail line being built in Mexico will serve as a drug trafficking route to southern Texas. Currently most of the drug traffickers use the interstate highway system. Interstate's 35 and 80 are well traveled by drug traffickers allowing them to be direct pipeline routes to the Midwest.

### **2007 Drug Control Strategy – Data Gathering Plan**

Becky Swift reported that last year a major revision was made to the strategy that moved away from having annual goals and objectives to working with a results and indicator framework. Three result areas were identified and data indicators established for prevention, treatment, enforcement and corrections. The action steps for each indicator fell into two categories, current proposals and two to ten year agendas.

Becky stated that she and Dennis Wiggins are beginning to work on the strategy and will review each of the indicators and update them as needed. They will also contact each council member for their feedback about the indicators.

The goal will be to update state leaders and others on the progress that has been made.

Iowa's strategy is based largely on the national strategy that ONDCP completes and has been recognized as a relative unique state document. ONDCP has used Iowa's strategy as a model for other states.

### **2007 Legislative Priorities**

Dale reported that a Council retreat has been scheduled for November 9. Council members were asked to start thinking about what direction they would like to see the group take. Since the retreat will be held after the election the Council will know who the new state leaders will be and can take that into account as they plan.

Pam Dettmann reported that the County Attorney's Association will host a two-day meeting at the end of September to discuss their legislative initiatives. On the first day there will be representatives coming in from different agencies to present their legislative agendas and discuss how they can dovetail the various strategies. The second day the Association will use this information to develop their strategies. Pam will bring this information to the retreat.

Dale stated that substance abuse treatment was a priority last year and asked Pam if it would be a priority of the County Attorney's Association. Pam said that they would be supportive of treatment.

Dale mentioned that ODCP will be very supportive of anything that would provide additional treatment in corrections and community based/institutional settings as well as also on the human service side, the concept of family drug courts.

Art Schut reported that there are a multitude of issues related to evidence-based treatment practices and that the National Quality Forum (NCF), a private, not-for-profit membership organization created to develop and implement a national strategy for healthcare quality measurement and reporting is currently studying substance use disorders and treatment. The development of the national strategy relies on a consensus process involving representatives from the specific discipline being studied. The National Quality Forum is funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

During the last two years the NCF has been working on substance abuse disorders. The primary goal is to establish a set of well-specified, evidence-based practices for substance use disorder treatment that can lay the foundation for future performance measures and improvements in the quality of care. This consensus process received congressional endorsement so it will have legal authority when completed.

Jeanette stated that the Department of Corrections '08 budget proposals center on substance abuse. One proposal will be to reinstitute centralized substance abuse services assessment at IMCC in order to determine what level of substance abuse treatment is necessary. Treatment need levels are determined through examination of several criteria, which help to determine the type of treatment a client needs.

The Department of Correction's second initiative will impact the ICIW and Fort Dodge Correctional Facility. This initiative will turn both of those institutions into total therapeutic community environments similar to the program in Sheridan, Illinois.

Neither of these budget proposals has been finalized. A meeting will be held in late August with recommendations from both institutions to make sure they are the best and most fundable proposals. Jeanette reported that Marvin Van Haaften, Janet Zwick and members of ISAPDA have been invited to that meeting.

Dale reported that at the treatment prison in Sheridan, Illinois job training is a large component of the program. This prepares the offenders for employment and often they are placed with companies that are partnering with the prison. They also have transitional job placements and substance abuse programs.

Jeanette reported that the Iowa prison system has very little vocational training available. A small portion is at Fort Dodge with the young offender program through the community college. There are a lot of work programs in the prison system that range from dietary, maintenance, to house keeping. The prisons provide instruction on the job interview process, conduct job performance evaluations, certification of job skills to use on job opportunities they have that

would mirror private sector employment and leverage employee/employment preparation more effectively.

Art said he would like to put together a group of people from different areas to talk about housing solutions. Housing and job availability are both big issues for those being released from a correctional setting. There are issues around having a conviction and accessing information on housing and employment.

Stew Barnes reported that the COPS hiring initiative funding has been eliminated. There is no money for hiring law enforcement.

Dale said that another potential ODCP legislative proposal will be to generate some revenue for drug task force personnel. The federal grant funds that have been used in the past have been dwindling and ODCP feels duty bound to try to find a way to raise some additional funds.

Jeanette Bucklew discussed the sex offender residency restrictions in Iowa.

Paul reported that this past fiscal year was the second year in a row where there was a decrease in drug related prison commitments. Council members received a handout on prison commitments by drug type, offense class and meth offense class. The greatest drop was in Class B felonies which tend to be for manufacture or distribution.

Dale asked Paul why there was a decrease and Paul responded that it was related to the pseudoephedrine legislation. The most serious Class B charges were down 43% from the previous year.

### **Partnership for a Drug-Free Iowa “Hope, Help and Healing” Campaign**

Dale reported that the Partnership for a Drug-Free Iowa will be rolling out a new public service campaign with a focus on treatment and intervention. This campaign is designed to encourage people to get help and speak to addiction as a disease. The new messages should begin around Labor Day. Dale and a member from the Partnership for a Drug-Free America will be traveling around the state the last week of August to unveil the new public service announcements.

### **Next Meeting**

The November 9 meeting will be an all day (9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.) legislative planning retreat held at the DCI Laboratory in Ankeny.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Becky Bell